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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/503,990	02/14/2000	Mahmoud R. Sherif	2-7	7379

7590 02/14/2003

Lucent Technologies Inc
Docket Administrator (Room 3C-512)
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EXAMINER

ZEWDU, MELESS NMN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2685

DATE MAILED: 02/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/503,990	Applicant(s) Sherif et al.
	Examiner Meless Zewdu	Art Unit 2685
		
<i>-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --</i>		
Period for Reply		
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>three</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). 		
Status		
1) <input type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.		
2a) <input type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL. 2b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final.		
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.		
Disposition of Claims		
4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-15</u> is/are pending in the application.		
4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.		
5) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.		
6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1, 2, 9-11, and 15</u> is/are rejected.		
7) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>3-8 and 12-14</u> is/are objected to.		
8) <input type="checkbox"/> Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.		
Application Papers		
9) <input type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.		
10) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on <u>Feb 14, 2000</u> is/are a) <input type="checkbox"/> accepted or b) <input type="checkbox"/> objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).		
11) <input type="checkbox"/> The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) <input type="checkbox"/> approved b) <input type="checkbox"/> disapproved by the Examiner. If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.		
12) <input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.		
Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120		
13) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) <input type="checkbox"/> All b) <input type="checkbox"/> Some* c) <input type="checkbox"/> None of: 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____. 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.		
14) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e). a) <input type="checkbox"/> The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.		
15) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.		
Attachment(s)		
1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)		
2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)		
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). <u>2</u>		
4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____		
5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)		
6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is the first on the merit of the instant application.
2. Claims 1-15 are pending in this action.

Drawings

3. Figures 1-3 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance. Examiner notes that figures 1-3 are implicitly related to what is disclosed in the back-ground section as a prior art in the related field of endeavor.
4. The drawings are further objected to because of problems addressed in the attached Form PTO 948. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1, 2, 9-11 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weaver, Jr. et al. (Weaver) (US 5,903,862) in view of Minkoff (US 6,434,235 B1).

As per claim 1: a method for communicating comprising the steps of:

receiving a first encoded voice signal as a first set of voice signal parameters reads on '862 (see figs. 1, 2, 6 and 7; col. 3, lines 332-35).

directing the first set of voice signal parameters to a first speech decoder to generate a voice signal reads on '862 (see figs. 1, 2, 6 and 7; col. 3, lines 42-46).

transmitting the second set of voice signal parameters reads on '862 (see col. 4, lines 44-49).

But, Weaver does not explicitly teach about feeding the voice signal from the first speech decoder to an adaptive filter to produce a modified voice signal which in turn is to be fed to a speech decoder as a modified voice signal as claimed by applicant. However, in a related field of endeavor, Minkoff teaches about an acoustic echo canceler wherein a plurality of encoders and decoders are provided to operate on sound signal in a first apparatus and a second apparatus to

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modify the sound signal and wherein the modified sound signal is received by an adaptive filter that forms a replica signal (see entire document, particularly fig. 3; element 155; col. 3, lines 24-34; col. 4, line 52-col. 5, line 52). The teaching in the reference depicts interfacing an adaptive filter to a plurality of encoders and decoders operating in a cordless unit and a base unit. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Weaver with teaching of Minkoff for the advantage of forming a replica of a reference sound signal (see col. 19-22). When the two references are combined as discussed hereinabove, a voice signal from the first speech decoder would be fed to the adaptive filter to produce a modified voice signal. **Note:** examiner realizes the difference in configuration between the prior art and the claimed subject matter, particularly regarding the position of the adaptive filter. However, applicant does not show criticality as to why the adaptive filter should be where it is as oppose to other configurations known in the art. Hence, one could argue that a voice signal could be decoded or encoded and then filtered or the other way around, filtered and decoded or encoded. This amounts to a choice of design.

As per claim 2: please refer to claim 1. The prior art adaptive filter compensates distortions.

As per claim 9: please refer to claim 1. Claim 9 is rejected on the same ground and motivation as claim 1 since claim 9 is the apparatus claim that carries out the method steps of claim 1.

As per claim 10: please refer to claim 1. Furthermore, adaptive filter is known to modify frequencies of a given spectrum.

As per claim 11: please refer to claim 1.

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As per claim 15: please refer to claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 3-8 and 12-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Meless Zewdu whose telephone number is (703)306-5418. The examiner can normally be reached on week days from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Urban Edward F (703)305-4385.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314.

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Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Six Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or related to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)306-0377.

¶ 5.03 Reassignment Affecting Application Location

The Art Unit location of your application in the PTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Art Unit 2685.

Meless Zewdu

M - Z

Examiner

February 06, 2003.

Edward F. Urban
EDWARD F. URBAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600